

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

Issue: September 2009

Next MEPAG meeting March 17-18, 2010, Monrovia, California.

Mars Science News

Call for New Candidate MSL Landing Sites

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to take advantage of an opportunity to propose new candidate landing sites for the 2011 Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) mission. Addition of any new site to the list of four currently under consideration (Eberswalde crater, Gale crater, Holden crater, and Mawrth Vallis) will require both mineralogic and morphologic evidence demonstrating a compelling argument that it is at least as promising as the sites currently being evaluated. Moreover, the engineering or safety aspects of any candidate site must eventually be shown (by the MSL Project) to equal or exceed those of the four sites under consideration. Interpretations of the science potential of new candidate sites must be mature and would ideally be peer-reviewed and published prior to formal addition as a new candidate site.

Consideration of new candidate sites requires preparation of an abstract that includes detailed information on the location and nature of the site. Specific requirements for proposing a new site and associated science and engineering criteria that must be included/discussed can be found in the abstract template posted at <http://marsoweb.nas.nasa.gov/landingsites/> and <http://webgis.wr.usgs.gov/msl>. Abstracts describing new sites should be submitted via e-mail to John Grant (grantj@si.edu) and Matt Golombek (matthew.p.golombek@jpl.nasa.gov). New candidate sites must be proposed by October 31, 2009, to be considered.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
9/1	Joint ESA-ASI Workshop on Methane on Mars abstracts deadline
9/1	GRSG AGM 2009 abstracts deadline
9/3	AGU Fall Meeting abstracts deadline
9/5	50th Vernadsky-Brown Microsymposium abstracts deadline
9/8	41st Annual DPS Meeting late abstracts deadline
9/9	The Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) abstracts deadline
9/10	LEAG 2009 abstracts deadline
9/23	12th Mars Crater Consortium Meeting abstracts deadline
10/27	Ground-Based Geophysics on the Moon Conference abstracts deadline
10/31	Deadline for proposal new candidate MSL landing sites

We anticipate that an initial review for compliance to site requirements will be completed in early fall and that targets for initial imaging by MRO (or additional imaging if some MRO data already exists) will be submitted soon thereafter. These MRO data (HiRISE, CRISM, and CTX) will be made available to persons proposing candidate sites to permit more comprehensive evaluation of their merit over the winter of 2009/2010. A review of remaining candidate sites in May 2010 is anticipated and will likely involve presentations to the Landing Site Steering Committee and the MSL Project Science Group. This schedule is driven by project requirements for initial assessment of any new candidate sites and the desire to obtain additional MRO data of any site added to the list under consideration in time for broader community discussion during the fourth workshop, to be held in September 2010.

We look forward to the continuing participation of the science community in MSL landing site activities and hope that you will consider and propose any new candidate sites that might help to maximize the science done by MSL.

Regards,
John Grant and Matt Golombek
Co-Chairs, Mars Landing Site Steering Committee

Decadal Survey White Paper

Dear Colleagues,

The Decadal Survey White Paper "The Value of Landed Meteorological Investigations on Mars: The Next Advance for Climate Science", which may be downloaded at <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/decadal/index.html>, is nearing final form. Thank you to everyone that has contributed and endorsed this important paper.

If you have not already done so, but would like to endorse this paper or offer input into its content, please contact me. It's not too late!

The first Mars panel will be meeting 9-11 September, however, and it would be ideal to have the paper with a complete list of endorsements finalized by then.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Scot Rafkin
rafkin@boulder.swri.edu
720-240-0116

MEPAG Inputs to the Decadal Survey

To Members of the Mars Community,

The NRC's Decadal Survey has called for white papers of up to 7 pages in length of relevance to planetary exploration. Members of the community are invited to endorse

the white papers as “signatories”. The signatory list will be carried on the MEPAG web site.

For credibility, please read the paper (not just the title!) before endorsing.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jack Mustard, MEPAG Chair

Please go to the endorsement survey at <http://www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=1321313>.

Please note that you can return to the survey again to endorse additional papers, if desired.

Please direct questions about the survey to: Charles.J.Budney@jpl.nasa.gov.

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
<i>Third Quarter, 2009</i>		
	September 9-10, 2009 Noordwijk, NETHERLANDS	Mars Express Orbit Workshop and Science Operations Working Group Meeting
	September 9-11, 2009 Washington, DC, USA	Decadal Survey - First Primitive Bodies Panel Meeting National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW
	September 9-11, 2009 Tempe, Arizona, USA	Decadal Survey - First Mars Panel Meeting Arizona State University
	September 13-18, 2009 Potsdam, GERMANY	European Planetary Science Congress http://meetings.copernicus.org/epsc2009/information/index.html
	September 15-17, 2009 Moffett Field, California, USA	MARS DUST CYCLE WORKSHOP The Martian climate system is characterized in terms of the seasonal cycles of dust, water, and CO ₂ , which are coupled and driven by the general circulation. Recent workshops have focused on the water and CO ₂ cycles, but a workshop focused on the dust cycle, perhaps the most complex component of the climate system overall, has not been held since the post Viking data analysis programs of the 1980's. Given the enormous volume of data acquired since then, as well as the advances in modeling and laboratory methods, the time is right to hold a workshop focused on dust cycle. This workshop seeks to understand the global behavior of dust in the atmosphere by focusing on its lifting, transport, and deposition in the present climate regime. http://humbabe.arc.nasa.gov/MarsDustWorkshop/DustHome.html Convenor: Robert M. Haberle (NASA/Ames) Robert.M.Haberle@nasa.gov
	September 18-19, 2009 Berlin, GERMANY	ISPRS Workshop Commission IV/7 Planetary Mapping and Databases – Results from Current Missions http://www.igg.tu-berlin.de/ISPRS/workshop_6-7

	September 20-23, 2009 Alghero, Sardegna, ITALY	International Association of Sedimentologists (IAS) Meeting Session T7: Sedimentology and Stratigraphy in the inner and Outer Solar System. Field trip FT5: Tunisian desert: a perfect place to simulate landing on Mars. http://www.ias2009.com/
	September 21-23, 2009 Irvine, California, USA	Decadal Survey - Second Satellites Panel Meeting National Academies' Beckman Center, 100 Academy Drive
	September 22-24, 2009 Rome, ITALY	Joint Mars Express MARSIS-MRO SHRADA Team Meeting
	September 28, 2009 Flagstaff, Arizona, USA	Lunar Crater Consortium Meeting At the US Geological Survey Contact: Nadine Barlow at Nadine.Barlow@nau.edu http://www.lunarcraterconsortium.nau.edu/
	September 29-30, 2009 Flagstaff, Arizona, USA	12th Mars Crater Consortium Meeting At the US Geological Survey Abstracts deadline September 23, 2009 Contact Nadine Barlow at Nadine.Barlow@nau.edu http://www.marscraterconsortium.nau.edu
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2009</i>		
	October 2009	Call for Additional MSL Landing Sites (Potentially add one more)
	October 1, 2009 Pasadena, California, USA	Next 2001 Mars Odyssey PSG Meeting Contact Jeff Plaut (Jeffrey.J.Plaut@jpl.nasa.gov)
	October 4-9, 2009 Fajardo, Puerto Rico, USA	41st Annual DPS Meeting http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html Late abstracts deadline: September 8, 2009, 5:00 PM EDT / 21:00 UTC The El Conquistador Resort (meeting site) is now open for reservations. Deadline for reserving hotel rooms at the meeting rate: September 7, 2009
	October 12-14, 2009 Brussels, BELGIUM	9th European Workshop on Astrobiology EANA'09 http://www.exobiologie.be/eana/ Contact: Christian Muller (Christian.muller@aeronomie.be)
	October 12-14, 2009 Moscow, RUSSIA	50th Vernadsky-Brown Microsymposium This microsymposium will cover multiple topics in planetary science, with the last day devoted to the analysis of the Martian satellite Phobos. Sponsored by the Russian Foundation of Basic Research. Abstracts deadline September 5, 2009 Contacts: Alexander Basilevsky (atbas@geokhi.ru) and James W. Head (James_Head_III@Brown.edu) See web site for further details: http://www.planetology.ru/micro.php
	October 12-16, 2009 Daejeon, SOUTH KOREA	60th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) http://www.iac2009.kr/

	12-16 October 2009 Tuscany, ITALY	GEOLOGICAL MAPPING OF MARS: A WORKSHOP ON NEW CONCEPTS AND TOOLS (12-14 October) and FIELD TRIP ON THE GEOLOGY OF TUSCANY (15 – 16 October) The workshop will focus on three currently evolving aspects to planetary geological mapping: (1) the identification and mapping of geological units and features, (2) the digital tools that provide an efficient way to assemble data and map the surface, and (3) the extension of surface contact mapping into the subsurface and in a 3D environment. Contact: Gian Gabriele Ori [ggori@irsps.unich.it] http://www.irsps.unich.it/education/mapping09
	October 18–21, 2009 Portland, Oregon, USA	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	October 20-22, 2009 Laurel, Maryland, USA	(NASA) 3-Day Training Course on Planetary Protection "Planetary Protection: Policies and Practices" Designed to familiarize current and future practitioners with NASA, ESA, and COSPAR planetary protection programs. Enrollment: 20 participants - Contact: tasalb@msn.com http://planetaryprotection.nasa.gov/pp/course/index.htm
	October 26-28, 2009 Irvine, California, USA	Decadal Survey - Second Inner Planets Panel Meeting National Academies' Beckman Center, 100 Academy Drive
	October 26-28, 2009 Irvine, California, USA	Decadal Survey - Second Giant Planets Panel Meeting National Academies' Beckman Center, 100 Academy Drive
	October 28-29, 2009 Irvine, California, USA	VEXAG Meeting On Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning, in conjunction with the Next Decadal Survey Panel Meetings
	October 28-30, 2009 Irvine, California, USA	Decadal Survey - Second Primitive Bodies Panel Meeting National Academies' Beckman Center, 100 Academy Drive
	2010 Golden, Colorado, USA	11th Space Resources Roundtable Held at the Colorado School of Mines Joining individuals from the space exploration community, the financial sector and mining and minerals industries, the SRR seeks to bring together interested parties to discuss issues related to the In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU) of Lunar, asteroidal and Martian resources.
	November 4-6, 2009 Pasadena, California, USA	Decadal Survey - Second Mars Panel Meeting California Institute of Technology, 1200 E. California Boulevard
	November 9-10, 2009 Amman, JORDAN	The first Arab Impact Cratering and Astrogeology Conference http://aicac.jga.org.jo/main1/
	November 16-18, 2009 Irvine, California, USA	Decadal Survey - Second Planetary Science Steering Group National Academies' Beckman Center (Huntington Room). http://www7.nationalacademies.org/beckman/
	November 16-19, 2009 Houston, Texas, USA	Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group (LEAG 2009) at the Lunar and Planetary Institute Abstracts deadline September 10, 2009 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/leag2009
	Update November 23-24, 2009 ESRIN, Frascati, ITALY	Mars Express Science Team Meeting Monday-Tuesday before the Workshop on Methane on Mars Contact Olivier Witasse (Olivier.Witasse@esa.int)

	November 25-27, 2009 ESRIN, Frascati, ITALY	Joint ESA-ASI Workshop on Methane on Mars: Current Observations, Interpretation and Future Plans The goal of the workshop is to review the potential reservoirs and release mechanisms of methane and its circulation in the atmosphere, and possible origins of this constituent. http://www.congrex.nl/09c26/ Abstract submission deadline: September 1, 2009 Contact Olivier Witasse (Olivier.Witasse@esa.int)
	December 15-17, 2009 London, UK	Exploration Remote Sensing – GRSG AGM 2009 The Geological Society (Burlington House) Contact: Chairman Dan Taranik at dtaranik@angloamerican.co.uk Web site: http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/grsg2009
	December 14–18, 2009 San Francisco, California, USA	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings/fm09/ Abstract submissions will be open by July 30, 2009. See web site for details of the new abstract system. Abstract deadline is September 3, 2009.
<i>First Quarter, 2010</i>		
	January 10-15, 2010 Galveston, Texas, USA	The Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) Origin of Life Being held in conjunction with the Gordon Research Conference Origin of life (January 10-15, 2010) and will offer the unique opportunity for young researchers to present cutting edge research and discuss emerging ideas within the origin of life context. Abstract submission deadline: September 9, 2009 http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2010&program=origin http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2010&program=grs_origin
	January 13-15, 2010 Santiago, CHILE	Astrobio 2010 http://www.astro.puc.cl/astrobio2010/HOME.html
	January 21-22, 2010 Tempe, Arizona, USA	Ground-Based Geophysics on the Moon Contacts: Matthew Fouch, Andrew Dombard, Catherine Johnson at lunargeophys@asu.edu Abstraction submission deadline: October 27, 2009 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lunargeo2010/lunargeo20101st.shtml
	January 25-26, 2010 London, UK	The Detection of Extra-Terrestrial Life and the Consequences for Science and Society http://royalsociety.org/event.asp?id=8602&month=1,2010
	March 17-18, 2010 Monrovia, California, USA	MEPAG #22 Contacts: Charles Budney (Charles.j.budney@jpl.nasa.gov) and Joyce Pulliam (Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov)
	March 1-5, 2010 The Woodlands, Texas, USA	Lunar and Planetary Science Conference #41 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/ Abstracts deadline December 1, 2009, 5:00 p.m. (CST)
	March 14-17, 2010 Honolulu, Hawaii, USA	ASCE Earth and Space 2010 Conference There will be 15 symposia, including Exploration and Utilization of Extraterrestrial Bodies and NASA/ARO/ASCE Workshop on Granular Materials in Lunar and Martian Exploration. http://content.asce.org/conferences/earthspace2010/index.html
	March 17-18, 2010 Monrovia, California, USA	Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG #22) Save the date.
<i>Second Quarter, 2010</i>		

	April 19-23, 2010 El Paso, Texas, USA	First International Conference on Mars Sedimentology and Stratigraphy A week-long conference including a 2-day field trip to look at the Mars analog sedimentary rocks that have filled the western part of the Permian Basin. Conference web site will be posted through LPI.
	April 26-29, 2010 League City, Texas, USA	Astrobiology Science Conference 2010 Abstracts deadline December 1, 2009 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/abscicon2010/abscicon20101st.shtml
	May 3-6, 2010 Monastir, TUNISIA	Astronomical Data Analysis (ADA6) http://www.aset.org.tn/conf/ADA6
	June 12-13, 2010 Barcelona, SPAIN	Planetary Protection Short Course http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/
	June 14-18, 2010 Barcelona, SPAIN	7th International Planetary Probe Workshop 2010 (IPPW-7) http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/
	June 8-12, 2010 Oslo, NORWAY	International Polar Year Oslo Science Conference http://www.ipy-osc.no/
<i>Third Quarter, 2010</i>		
	July 2010	Third MSL Landing Site Engineering Assessment Workshop
	July 18-25, 2010 Bremen, GERMANY	38th COSPAR Scientific Assembly Abstract Deadline: Mid-February 2010 Topics: - SC B: The Earth-Moon System, Planets, and Small Bodies of the Solar System - SC C: The Upper Atmospheres of the Earth and Planets Including Reference Atmospheres - SC D: Space Plasmas in the Solar System, Including Planetary Magnetospheres - SC F : Astrobiology and Space Science, Including Habitability on Mars : Past, Present & Future - Panel on Planetary Protection (PPP) Contact: cospar@cosparhq.cnes.fr http://www.cospar2010.org/ or http://www.cospar-assembly.org
	July 26-30, 2010 New York, New York, USA	73rd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Dr. Denton Ebel http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	September 2010	Fourth MSL Landing Site Community Workshop
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2010</i>		
	October 4-8, 2010 Sapporo, JAPAN	5th Alfven Conference: Plasma Interaction with Non-Magnetized Planets/Moons and Its Influence on Planetary Evolution http://www.ep.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/~alfven5/
	October 18-22, 2010 Madison, Wisconsin, USA	42nd Annual Meeting of the DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 31- November 3, 2010 Denver, Colorado, USA	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/

	December 13–17, 2010 San Francisco, California, USA	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2011</i>		
	March 2011	Fifth MSL Landing Site Community Workshop
	August 2011 Greenwich England, UNITED KINGDOM	74th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Gretchen Benedix http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	October 2011 Nice, FRANCE	43rd Annual Meeting of the DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 9–12, 2011 Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 12–16, 2011 San Francisco, California, USA	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2012 plus</i>		
	August 2012 Cairns, Queensland AUSTRALIA	75th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Trevor Ireland http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	August 2012 Brisbane, AUSTRALIA	The 34th International Geological Congress http://www.33igc.org/
	July 2013 Pasadena, California, USA	8th International Conference on Mars California Institute of Technology

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/ meetings:

Good Friday	4/10/2009	4/2/2010	4/22/2011	4/6/2012	3/29/2013
Rosh Hashanah	9/19/2009	9/9/2010	9/29/2011	9/17/2012	9/5/2013
Yom Kippur	9/28/2009	9/18/2010	10/8/2011	9/26/2012	9/14/2013
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening).					
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/26/2009	11/25/2010	11/24/2011	11/22/2012	11/28/2013
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/12/2009	10/11/2010	10/10/2011	10/8/2012	10/14/2013

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Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's email to Joyce Pulliam, Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov, 818-393-0444.

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>.